



## City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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### For Immediate Release

### City Leaders Officially Open Discovery Park with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

**Gaithersburg, MD (September 25, 2020)** Gaithersburg's brand new [Discovery Park](#) officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, September 25, 2020. The nature-focused space is located at 601 Orchard Ridge Drive and is the 27<sup>th</sup> park in the City of Gaithersburg. Due to gathering restrictions and social distancing requirements, the ribbon cutting ceremony was restricted to Gaithersburg elected officials, invited guests and members of the media only.

Gaithersburg Mayor Jud Ashman and Council Vice President Laurie-Anne Sayles were joined by City Manager Tanisha Briley, Deputy City Manager Dennis Enslinger, Assistant City Manager Tom Lonergan, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture Carolyn Muller, Project Manager Melanie Brown, Junior Mayor Hayden Sandlin, and City staff. Also in attendance were Senator Cheryl Kagan, who presented a Senate citation, Delegate James Gilchrist, members of the Quince Orchard Homeowners Association, and representatives from Triad Engineering, Floura Teeter and Patriot Construction, who were involved in the park's design and construction.

In 2013, MedImmune (now AstraZeneca) dedicated just over 6½ acres of parkland to the City. With the dedication of new City parkland adjacent to an almost 8½ acre parcel already owned by the City, plans for a new public park were developed. "Discovery Park would not have been possible without the generous dedication of land by AstraZeneca," said Mayor Ashman. "The City's largest employer donated six acres of its campus with the desire that the land be transformed into a park for the enjoyment of local residents, AstraZeneca's employees, and the children at the adjacent Discovery Meadows Childcare Center."

Within the nearly 15 acres of parkland, you'll find more than three acres of passive recreational space featuring five covered picnic structures (two are ADA accessible), two playgrounds, five walking paths, a four square court, a secret garden, a butterfly garden, the Great Lawn, and the City's first Gaga pit (a dodgeball variation).

"It is part of our Strategic Plan to ensure that all City residents are within easy reach of a park," said Mayor Ashman. "In fact, according to recent data, more than 90 percent of our residents live within a half mile of a City Park. This one is just a quarter mile from the Quince Orchard Park, Vistas, Kentlands, and Lakelands neighborhoods."

The total project cost of just over \$1.4 million dollars was funded through the City's Capital Improvement Plan. The park design was a joint effort by Triad Engineering and Floura Teeter, and the construction of the park was completed by Patriot Construction.

The park is open from dawn until dusk, with on-street parking only.

For more information visit [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov) and learn more about the project [here](#) and explore the park [here](#).

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**Photo Caption:**

**Front Row from Left to Right:**

Billie Swailes with Triad Engineering, Gaithersburg Council Vice President Laurie-Anne Sayles, Junior Mayor Hayden Sandlin, Mayor Jud Ashman, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture Carolyn Muller, City Manager Tanisha Briley, Senator Cheryl Kagan, Patriot Construction Director of Commercial Development Jim Wilson, Gaithersburg Project Manager Melanie Brown, and AstraZeneca Senior Director of North American Site Operations Joe Ernstberger.

**Back Row from Left to Right:**

Floura Teeter Landscape Architect Lydia Kimball, Floura Teeter Landscape Architect Joe Ignatius, Assistant City Manager Tom Lonergan, Deputy City Manager Dennis Enslinger, Delegate James Gilchrist, Managing Partner of Patriot Construction Matt Timbario, and Business Development at Patriot Construction Danielle Parish.